

Minutes

Work Group members on the call: FDPIR Program Staff: Roxanna Newsom (NAFDPIR President), Jaime Prouty-Nolan (NAFDPIR Treasurer), Gloria Goodwin (NAFDPIR Secretary), Gregory Nothstine (NAFDPIR Parliamentarian); Jenelle Gimlin, Lorraine Davis (WR); Mary Greene-Trottier, Charles "Red" Gates, Kathy Walter (MPR); Tod Robertson, Florence Calabaza, (SWR); Susie Roy (MWR); Laura Walter, Patti Schock, Stephanie Cooks (FNS); Sara Hernandez (AMS) ; Melissa Baker (FNS WRO); Lou Hankins (FNS SWRO); and Cathy Young (FNS MPRO).

Work Group members not on the call: Betty Jo Graveen, Sherry Bebeau (MWR); Desiree Simeon (WR); Nanelle Micco (SWR).

Visitors: SWR NAFDPIR members, Rogelio Carrasco (FNS Policy).

Minutes from the August 18, 2011 Work Group meeting were emailed to Work Group members for review and comment. No additions or edits to the minutes have been received to date.

I. AMS Update

- a. **Generic food labels** – ITOs continue to receive canned vegetables with generic labels. Program participants associate the generic labels with lower food quality. Products without pictures on the label also make it more difficult for staff to distinguish one product from another while stocking.
- b. **Frozen ground bison** – Charles "Red" Gates asked what happened to funding remaining from procurement of ground bison in FY 2010. AMS explained the funding was no longer available once the contract was terminated. Susie Roy asked if an alternative product can be purchased in the future, when contracts are terminated so that participants can still receive the benefit of a replacement product can be procured. In the case of bison, another product could not be purchased because the delivery period was delayed and extended into FY 2011 due to quality control problems with the vendor.
- c. **Fully-cooked small whole muscle turkey breast roast** – AMS is planning a conference call with turkey vendors to discuss industry availability of small fully-cooked turkey roasts for FDPIR. A Request for Proposals (RFP) has already gone out to industry for the small fully-cooked turkey roasts. Supply is very limited. Due to high demand during the holiday season, the turkey roasts are not expected to be available for distribution in FDPIR until February 2012 or later.
- d. **Whole bird chicken and Individually Frozen split chicken breasts** – Some ITOs have not had the chance to try the new individually frozen split chicken breast product. The trial period for offering the whole bird chickens and split chicken breasts will be extended through March 2012 to allow time for each tribe to try the product.
- e. **Cream of mushroom and cream of chicken soups** – FDPIR received one shipment of cream of mushroom soup in October 2011 however, future deliveries of both the cream of mushroom and cream of chicken soups have been suspended because both products contain non-domestic ingredients. FNS and AMS will be meeting with the manufacturer to discuss resolution of this situation.
- f. **Availability of tuna** – Currently there are no domestic suppliers for tuna. The group agreed to consider canned salmon as an alternative until a domestic supplier becomes available. FNS will work with AMS to explore ordering salmon in 14.75 ounce cans to replace tuna in the FDPIR food package. The group also expressed interest in exploring frozen salmon with Pacific Management Fisheries Council.
- g. **Best-if-Used-By (BIUB) Dates for FDPIR Foods** – ITOs expressed concern about foods going out of date in the program and what should be done with foods with a BIUB date that has either expired or is close to expiration. If this situation arises, ITOs should contact their FNS Regional Office to report the problem and learn next steps for disposing of the food. According to policy, food products with a BIUB date close to expiration cannot be distributed in the FDPIR program, even as a bonus item.

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II. FNS Update

- a. **FDPIR Goals and Structure Document** – The NAFDPIR Board and FNS are finalizing the FDPIR Goals and Structure document that outlines the purpose of the FDPIR Food Package Review Work Group. A final copy will be available for Work Group review at the December 2011 face-to-face meeting.
- b. **Bottled Juices** – The average shelf-life for bottled juices is 7 to 9 months. This is about half the shelf-life of juices in cans. Patti Schock is working to replenish the supply of bottle juices that have gone out of date. She will be working with ITOs that need assistance on a case-by-case basis to resolve this issue.
- c. **Regional Vendor Pilot** – FNS has compiled a list of ITOs that have asked to participate in the Regional vendor pilot for the FDPIR food package. Regional ITO groupings have been developed and are expected to streamline the process and increase quality service to ITOs participating in the pilot. The Work Group discussed the higher cost of food in rural tribal areas versus food costs in urban tribal areas. FNS will talk to vendors to determine what food costs will be. FNS expects to have a request for bids out to vendors mid- to late December 2011 and award the contract in February 2012. FNS will provide an update on vendor pilot progress at the December face-to-face meeting.
- d. **ITO Wish Lists Prioritized** – All ITO Regions have prioritized their wish lists. The Work Group will review Regional traditional foods and other priority foods for further market research at the face-to-face meeting in December. The prioritized lists will also be used to identify Regional traditional foods that might be offered in the vendor pilot

III. Next Work Group Meeting – October 2011

- a. **Face-to-face meeting** - Work Group members will convene at FNS Headquarters for a face-to-face meeting in Alexandria, Virginia on December 7-8, 2011. FNS will schedule a call with the NAFDPIR Board prior to the meeting to discuss agenda items.
- b. **Travel Coordinations** - FNS will send an email with travel information to Roxanna Newsom once funding for the face-to-face meeting is confirmed.

IV. Meeting Adjourned